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## *Zygella* S. Moore, a Synonym of *Larentia* Klatt (Iridaceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The identity of *Zygella* S. Moore, a genus of Iridaceae of Mato Grosso, Brazil, has never been satisfactorily established. Plants described by S. M. Moore in 1895 as *Zygella graminea* appear to us to be conspecific with *Larentia linearis* (Kunth) Klatt, type species of *Larentia* Klatt, a plant well represented in herbaria, mostly from grasslands of Venezuela. We reduce *Zygella* to synonymy in *Larentia*, and *Z. graminea* becomes a synonym of *L. linearis*. A second species, *Z. mooreana* Hoehne, described in 1910 and also from Mato Grosso, is likewise conspecific with *L. linearis* and a lectotype is designated for that species. *Cypella mexicana* C. V. Morton & R. C. Foster, which shares the characters of *Larentia*, is transferred to the genus as *L. mexicana* (C. V. Morton & R. C. Foster) Goldblatt; with this addition, *Larentia* now includes three species.

**Key words:** Brazil, Iridaceae, *Larentia*, Mato Grosso, Tigridieae, Venezuela, *Zygella*.

The genus *Zygella* was described by S. M. Moore in 1895 for a species of Iridaceae collected in Mato Grosso in interior Brazil two years previously, and at the time consisted of only one species, *Z. graminea* S. Moore. Both genus and species appear to have been overlooked by systematists dealing with the Iridaceae of South America and have remained, at least technically, recognized until now. The characteristics of *Zygella* include a bulbous rootstock; linear, unifacial leaves with pleated blades; and an inflorescence of the *Iris*-type, a rhipidium, enclosed in a pair of large opposed leafy bracts. The flowers have three free stamens with the anthers appressed to narrow, compressed style branches that each bear a pair of small crests, below which lies a bilobed stigmatic lip. These features place the genus squarely in tribe Tigridieae of subfamily Iridoideae (Goldblatt, 1990), an exclusively New World tribe of some 15 genera and over 175 species (Goldblatt & Manning, 2008; Goldblatt et al., 2008).

Illustrations accompanying the protologue show a plant with a branched stem; a distinctive, narrow, attenuate leaf subtending the lowermost branch; narrow rhipidia with the outer spathe about half as long as the inner; and flowers with subequal, laxly spreading, unmarked tepals. *Zygella mooreana* Hoehne (Hoehne, 1910), also from Mato Grosso, is evidently conspecific with *Z. graminea*, but the illustrations of the flowers in Hoehne's publication are more carefully drawn and show the tepals to be markedly clawed, with the narrow claws and limb bases darkly speckled. The illustrations and type specimen at the Natural History Museum, London, are a close match to the Venezuelan *Larentia linearis* (Kunth) Klatt (Klatt, 1882). We have not been able to locate the syntypes of *Z. mooreana*. Differences in the flowers illustrated in Moore's and Hoehne's publications are probably not significant. More likely those in the former illustration are simply poorly rendered, perhaps because they were drawn from dried flowers revived in water, whereas the latter appears to have been drawn from life.

*Larentia* Klatt (Klatt, 1882) was described with the single species *L. linearis* of grassland habitats of Venezuela. The genus was included in *Cypella* Herb., a genus mainly (possibly exclusively) of temperate South America, by Baker (1892), now including ca. 30 species. The American specialist of the systematics of New World Iridaceae, R. C. Foster (1945), followed Baker's taxonomy in this instance. In contrast, Ravenna (1977) regarded *Larentia* as separate from *Cypella* and added one species, *L. rosei* (R. C. Foster) Ravenna, to the genus. A molecular study using five plastid DNA regions (Goldblatt et al., 2008) shows one species of *Larentia*, *L. rosei*, and the very similar *C. mexicana* C. V. Morton & R. C. Foster, no doubt correctly a species of *Larentia*, to be sister to *Cipura* Aubl. and not immediately allied to *Cypella*, a result that justifies Ravenna's recognition of *Larentia* as separate from *Cypella*. We infer that *L. linearis* plus two Mexican species, *L. rosei* and *C. mexicana* (here